

# 2005 Report of Accomplishments (July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005)

## Lincoln County Conservation District



### Most Significant Natural Resource Accomplishment

- Lincoln County Streambank Rehabilitation Protection or the Gordon Ellis Project as the district refers to it, stands out this year as being the “most significant natural resource accomplishments.” This project focuses on rehabilitating and protecting approximately 500 feet of exposed streambanks from further erosion during periods of high flow to improve water quality, aesthetic properties, and fish and wildlife habitat along Hawk Creek. 500 feet of eroding bank was sloped back 2 feet from the top of the bank. The banks could not be further sloped back because an access road was very close by. District staff and the DNR prison crew worked together to install erosion control fabric on exposed banks and loose soil banks from where the bank shaping occurred. A heavy open mesh coconut fiber was laid down in 3 rows. 625 native trees and shrubs were planted directly into the coconut fiber and banks. The district helped assist the landowner in installing a drip irrigation system on the south bank, which is run off of this own private water system. The district was able to help property owner Gordon Ellis protect his access road while improving water quality, and habitat all at the same time.



Before & After



### Mission of the Lincoln County Conservation District

- To protect, educate and enhance Lincoln County's natural resource base, or SWAPAH (soil, water, air, plants, animals and human). We believe all of our natural resources are integrated. Recognizing that our mission is protect and enhance SWAPAH of Lincoln County through an integrated approach and educate the general public about the responsible use of SWAPAH. The economically feasible and socially acceptable programs. We promote the responsible use, increase knowledge and research of our natural resource base and on farm research testing.

### Natural Resource Improvements in 2005 - Summary

- 13,626 feet of terraces preventing an estimated 700 tons of soil erosion.
- 25,710 cubic yards of waterway were implemented reducing an estimated 1,000 tons of soil erosion while helping improve water quality.
- 1,200 rangeland acres are being better utilized with the installation of 1.8 miles of cross fence.
- 4 abandoned well closures are protecting the safety of human and wildlife, ground water is also being protected.
- Better pasture utilization, reduced earth erosion, wildlife and herd health improvement with water quality improvement are estimated to improve for 500 head of cattle with the installation of 4 livestock tanks.
- 1 irrigation improvement will improve 155 acres of water quality, energy efficiency.

### Water Quality Implementation

- Public education and outreach plays an important role to our conservation district. The Water Quality Implementation grant allows the district to distribute over 7,000 newsletters, publish newspaper articles, and display an educational booth at the Lincoln County Fair.
- 15 cooperators installed 22 Best Management Practices (BMP) to include 1.8 miles of better pasture utilization cross fencing, 4 abandoned wells were closed, 4 livestock watering facilities were developed, 1 irrigation improvement, 13,626 feet of terrace were built, and 25,710 cubic yards of grass waterways were installed.

### Basic Funding

- Through CRP signup 26 & 29, 215 wildlife watering facilities also known as guzzlers have been sold. The district contracted to install 38 guzzlers.

- The CRP signup also generated tree and shrub sales. 22,360 trees and shrub were sold of that 22,160 were install by the district and subcontracted with the DNR tree planting prison crew. Another 1,300 trees and shrub were sold for conservation programs.
- 10,025 bare root trees and shrubs were sold through the district annual tree and shrub sale.
- Basic funding enabling the district to do experimental projects that are not covered through grants, one such project was The Great Carp Round-Up. The round-up was a one day experimental to remove carp from a section of Crab Creek. Carp herders included staff from Lincoln, Adams and Othello Conservation District, Washington Department of Ecology (DOE), and Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The experiment was designed to be a fun experience to learn more about the effects carp have on water quality in Crab Creek.
- Basic funding allows the district to complete district operations such as elections, pay dues, distribute newsletters and hold education events like sixth grade day. Basic funding also has played an important role in successfully receiving grant funding with a match requirement.
- LCCD is acting as a Technical Service Provider (TSP) for NRCS on CRP 29. The district has a 50% contribution cost agreement for 217 contracts that is currently working on completing.
- Every year the district recognizes a farmer of the year for their conservation role, also recognized is a public service award and rain fall collectors. This year's awards banquet was held in Almira with 63 people attending.
- The Farm Bill Policy Committee has met for the past 2 years; Manager David Lundgren has been participating in the conference calls covering conservation programs.

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### **Local Funding**

- Applied for tax assessment renewal. Mailed over 5,000 newsletters highlighting what is the purpose of the conservation, our role in the community, what we've done and we're headed. Held a public hearing which there was no opposing comments.
- Much like Basic Funding the tax assessment is used for district operations, and ensuring grant funding.

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### **Professional Engineering**

- Utilized the Area Engineer, Tom Bumstead, to assist in drawing up plans for the Lincoln County Streambank Rehabilitation Protection. A smaller more cost effective version of the original plan was used.

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### **Livestock/Dairy**

- In cooperation with Stevens County Conservation District we were able to send two people to the AFO/CAFO Training in Leavenworth.
- Provided additional funding to Stevens County Conservation District to aide a Stevens County producer.

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### **Watershed Conservation/Habitat Restoration**

- Facilitated the Lincoln County Planning Unit for WRIA 43 for multi-purpose water storage assessment, Phase II Planning and the Phase III grant application process.

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### **Community Collaboration & Coordination**

- Worked with the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife to apply for a habitat enhancement grant for upland game birds through the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account of the State of Washington. The goal of the project is to make 10 upland game bird feeders, place them on plots that will serve as demonstration sites to encourage other landowners to initiate habitat restoration on their own properties.
- Teamed with the Ground Water Management Area (GWMA) to provide free nitrate water testing to Lincoln County residents, 83 residents took advantage of the free watering testing and information.
- Through a community involvement project the district teamed with the WSU Cooperative Extension, Public Adventures Program to renovate two local parks, the David Skating/Basketball Rink in Wilbur and the Davenport City Park. Wilbur 8<sup>th</sup> grade students planted blue spruce around the rink. At the Davenport City park two large oak trees we planted, the creek cleaned out, and repainted the bridge as well as restroom. Planting trees involved more than just digging a hole in the ground, local junior high students learned it's a community event that also takes planning, participation ad perseverance.

- Each year sponsors are solicited to help send local children to the Natural Resources Youth Camp. This year enough money was raised to send two campers and one counselor until camp was canceled.
- The district has recognized the important collaboration effort between the Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS) and the conservation district. When the Conservation Security Program (CSP) was announced the district teamed with the NRCS to take a proactive role in the program. Together the district hosted 9 informational meetings, 3 workshops with 150 producers attending. Numerous advertisements, news releases, informational producer mailing, and post card were all mailed. During signup assistance was provided during scheduling, interviews, map making, folder assembly, and contract signing. A total of 129 producers signed up, of that 113 contracted were funded for a total of 2.4 million dollars.
- District Manager, David Lundgren, meets with the county commissioners at least once a quarter to discuss district activities.
- NRCS, Washington Department of Transportation, and the district have been working together for the past two years install Washington's first Living Snow Fence along Highway 2. Over the past year the district has assisted in weed control, growth measurements, grass mowing, and planning and developing a workshop for the fall of 2005.
- Adams, Warden and Lincoln County Conservation District jointly conduct the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) local work group, 2 meeting were held over the past year focusing on prioritizing natural resource concerns and reviewing the EQIP ranking sheet.

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### **Marketing/Outreach & Education**

- Sixth Grade Conservation Day was held in May, 195 sixth graders attended from 7 schools and 2 home schoolers. Students rotated through 11 natural resource classes each 15 minutes long.
- The fair booth at the Lincoln County Fair featured the history of the district, projects completed, youth education, and who's working for you. The booth served as an excellent show case of projects completed and community awareness for what a conservation district is and does.
- Helping educate the Reardan High School biology class of water in their own back yard provided hands-on experience for learning to sample and the Audubon Lake. The district provided pH and conductivity/dissolved oxygen meters for the class field trip to the lake along with our knowledge of the lake.
- Quarterly newsletters were sent out to Lincoln County residents, a total of 12,187 newsletters were sent out over the past year.

Washington Conservation Districts assisting land managers with their conservation choices



Wildlife Water Facility or Guzzler